

**Critical Steps:**

1. The Division of Environmental Management (DEM) will continue to utilize the combined expertise of state and federal staff (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-EPA, U.S. Geological Survey-USGS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association-NOAA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-USFWS, Division of Marine Fisheries- DMF, and Division of Coastal Management-DCM) to develop comprehensive basinwide plans that will provide mechanisms to characterize water quality and biological resources within basins, target problematic watersheds, and manage water resources to support long-term growth.
2. With input from the Regional Councils (see Implementation Plan), DEM will continue to establish total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for each targeted watershed, synchronize the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting process, and include nonpoint source controls in each basinwide plan.
3. DEM with the assistance of other state and federal agencies (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-USACE, DMF, DCM, EPA, and USFWS), would refine a wetlands evaluation system to better classify wetlands function on a basinwide scale.
4. The basinwide plans should include information (maps and graphics) that promotes an understanding of the importance of wetland types to overall water management.
5. DEM will use agricultural cost share and other non-regulatory programs to increase the restoration of degraded wetlands. The Division will incorporate effective best management practices such as the Forested Wetlands BMP document (Division of Forest Resources-DFR) into wetland management programs.
6. DEM would consider the efforts by DCM in wetlands identification and evaluation on a county level basis (See Vital Habitats Plan, Objective C, Management Action 3).
7. DEM would include the delineated wetlands information (maps and graphics) in basinwide plans that promotes an understanding of the importance of wetland types to overall water quality management.